

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/552,715

Attorney Docket No. Q58947

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were previously pending. New claims 21 and 22 are herein added. Accordingly, claims 1 - 22 are presently pending.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting the allowable subject matter of claims 4 - 7 and 13 - 16, wherein such claims would be allowed if amended to include the subject matter of base and intervening claims. Such amendment is respectfully requested to be held in abeyance so as to enable the Examiner to consider the averments herein.

I. Rejection of Claim 1 - 3, 8 - 12 and 17 - 20 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in View of U.S.P. Nos. 5,420,761 and 5,532,852 to DuNah and Kalamash, Respectively

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as follows.

Applicant has amended the independent claims (claims 1 and 12) to include the subject matter of the slopes facing the incident side surface being inclined at an angle less than 45 degrees (for support as to this subject matter, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to page 9 of the specification, for instance, in the first full paragraph). Because the Kalamash reference is deficient as to at least these features, and, further, because the DuNah reference fails to cure the deficiencies of the Kalamash reference, independent claims 1 and 12 are asserted as patentable.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 12 are averred to be patentable and the remaining claims are averred to be patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the current rejections.

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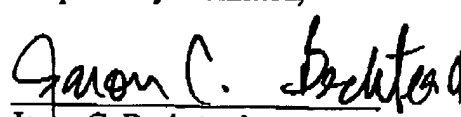
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II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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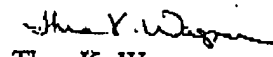
Date: April 21, 2004

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Sir:

I hereby certify that the above identified correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner Kenneth PARKER at the Patent and Trademark Office on April 21, 2004 at (703) 872-9306.

Respectfully submitted,


Thea K. Wagner